Maclaurin, Richard (President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Nov 1917

~~(80)~~
(79)

170

169

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sir Robert:

We are, of course, anxious at this Institute to do all that we can for the war and I have no doubt that we could learn a great deal from your experience. The most of our activities are already directed to warlike ends but it can not be long until we come wholly on a war basis. We are already conducting a number of special schools in co-operation with the War Department and the Department of the Navy and with other branches of the Government such as the United States Shipping Board. We are looking around for other fields of usefulness and are ready to establish intensive courses in any region that is within the scope of action for which we are organized. It would be most helpful in this connection if we knew more in detail of the activities of your University in order that we may follow the splendid example that you have set. If there is anything available in print that gives an account of your activities in the field of engineering, architecture, chemistry or physics, I should be greatly indebted to you if you would be good enough to send it to me. If there is nothing of the kind available, perhaps you will be good enough to write me an outline

Maclaurin, Richard
President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nov 1917

of the things that you are doing in the field that I have indicated that appear to be of most value.

Yours sincerely,

Richard J. Maclaurin

November 23, 1917.

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

November 26th, 1917

President Maclaurin,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

Cantridge, Mass.

My dear President Maclaurin:

I am sending you copies of my last two reports: the one for the year just closed is now on the press and will follow soon. In these reports you will get an outline of our war work.

In addition to these reports I might say that we have handed over a very large proportion of our rooms in the Faculty of Applied Science to the Aeronautic School of the Royal Flying Corps. Several of our professors also give instruction in this school in Physics, Photography and wireless. We are also establishing a department of aerodynamics, and expect to have a wind tunnel with an English balance for making investigations.

A large amount of work also is being done for the British Admiralty in the Department of Physics, but I am sorry that I am not at liberty to tell you the nature of it. Professor McLennan, the head of the department, has been retained by the Admiralty in England, and is on the Scientific Board doing work mainly I think in connection with submarines, but he is also establishing a laboratory for which he has drawn a large number of the younger men of our staff. This laboratory is to be in London, but most of our Physics staff in Toronto are co-operating on this side and have undertaken along with Professor

McLennan a very large and important piece of work. As I say I regret I cannot tell you about it as I only know myself in a general way what they are doing.

A large number of our staff from the Chemical Department are engaged in the manufacture of acetones, and we are supplying chemists in such numbers that we are finding it extremely difficult to satisfy our own needs. One of the most up to date breweries of the Dominion has been turned into a factory for making acetone and they have drawn largely upon our staff.

Moreover, in our Department of Hygiene we are manufacturing tetanus antitoxin, meningitis and antityphoid sera as well as smallpox vaccine. We supply practically the whole Canadian Army.

If you are interested in the work of re-education of disabled soldiers I could have an account sent to you of a most important piece of work that is being done in the University under the direction of one of our staff in Psychology. About 60 returned soldiers are now being treated for the recovery of the use of their limbs and speech. This, however, would be rather in the field of medicine and psychology than in any line that you follow in the Institute of Technology.

If you wish to know more as to what is being done in Physics why not write to our Professor J. C. McLennan care of the Admiralty in London ?

We are all greatly rejoiced owing to the fact that you have come into the war and are throwing so much energy into it. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.